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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the original filing of November 18, 2003. Claims 1, 15 and 23 are independent claims. Claims 1-28 are pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-8 and 10-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maehiro (US7058690B2).

Claims 1: Maehiro discloses a method for linking multiple identities from a single service, the method comprising: for a user of a single service having multiple identities within the single service, authenticating a primary identity (MASTER ACCOUNT=maehiro) having a first buddy list (Akiko, Tadashi, Naoki, Junko, Miyuki, etc.) associated with an account (Fig. 6); authenticating a secondary identity (SUB-ACCOUNT) having a second buddy list (Takeshi) associated with the account (Fig. 14, Fig. 12 and Column 10, Lines 58-61); and creating an association between the primary identity and the

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secondary identity, wherein the primary identity and the secondary identity simultaneously share a common graphical user interface such that the primary identity interacts with the first buddy list and the secondary identity interacts with the second buddy list using the common graphical user interface (Fig. 14).

Claims 2: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 wherein: authenticating the primary identity includes using a first password to authenticate the primary identity (Fig. 13; MASTER ACCOUNT=maehiro); and authenticating the secondary identity includes using a second password to authenticate the secondary identity (Fig. 13, SUB-ACCOUNT and Column 14, Lines 57-61).

Claims 3: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 2 wherein the first password and the second password are the same (a password, Column 8, Line 14).

Claims 4: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 2 wherein the first password (MASTER ACCOUNT (maehiro) – PASSWORD) and the second password (SUB-ACCOUNT (x x x) – PASSWORD) are different (Fig. 13 and Column 14, Lines 57-61).

Claims 5: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 wherein: authenticating the primary identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the primary identity (Fig. 13, maehiro); and authenticating the secondary identity includes using a SecureID to

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authenticate the secondary identity (Fig. 13, SUB-ACCOUNT (y y y); Column 8, Lines 11-17).

Claims 6: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1, wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity (Column 10, Lines 58-61).

Claims 7: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1, wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity (Column 10, Lines 58-61).

Claims 8: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1, wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity (Column 10, Lines 58-61).

Claims 10: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 the primary identity is a part of a first domain (First client system) and the secondary identity is a part of a second domain (Second client system) that differs from the first domain (Column 2, Lines 23-25).

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Claims 11: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 further comprising: setting preferences for the primary identity (MASTER ACCOUNT), wherein setting the preferences for the primary identity also sets the preferences for the secondary identity (SUB-ACCOUNT) (Column 10, Lines 58-61).

Claims 12: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 further comprising: setting first preferences for the primary identity (MASTER ACCOUNT); and setting second preferences for the secondary identity (SUB-ACCOUNT) (Column 10, Lines 58-61).

Claims 13: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 wherein the first buddy list and the second buddy list include one or more common buddies listed (Naoki on both Fig. 6 and Fig. 12) on both the first buddy list and the second buddy list.

Claims 14: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1 wherein the single service enables linking multiple identities within the single service so as to enable presence of one to be reflected based on a login of another of the multiple identities (Fig. 6, Column 12, Lines 34-36).

Claims 15: Maehiro discloses a method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities, the method comprising: displaying a common graphical user interface including a list for each of the multiple identities, the list including other identities with whom the multiple identities are used to communicate (Fig. 6); enabling selection of a

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source identity from among multiple identities using a common graphical user interface for the identities from which to initiate an electronic communication, wherein the multiple identities are from a single electronic communication service (Fig. 14); enabling selection of a buddy from a list of buddies associated with the source identity using the common graphical user interface to send the electronic communication (Fig. 6, Column 11, Lines 51-54); and sending the electronic communication to the buddy such that the electronic communication is identified to the buddy as being sent from the source identity (Fig. 6, Column 11, Lines 51-54).

Claims 16: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple identities are linked using linking logic based on a remote server (Column 4, Lines 53-57).

Claims 17: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential identities to which a link from the multiple identities may be created (Column 21, Lines 4-8), wherein the list of potential identities is created based on relationships between the potential identities and the multiple identities known to exist within the remote server (Column 1, Lines 23-33).

Claims 18: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the buddy addressed to the source identity (Fig. 7).

Claims 19: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising: logging on to a communications system using a first identity that differs from the source identity; and in response to logging on to the communications system using the first identity, automatically being logged on to the communications system for the source identity (Column 11, Lines 42-45).

Claims 20: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying the multiple linked identities in the common graphical user interface (Fig. 6).

Claims 21: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying lists of buddies associated with each of the multiple linked identities in the common graphical user interface (Fig. 6).

Claims 22: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of an identity to the list for one of the multiple identities, adding the identity to the lists for the other multiple identities (Column 4, Lines 52-67 & Column 5, Lines 1-6).

Claims 23: Maehiro discloses a graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable: a display portion configured to make perceivable multiple identities for a user, wherein one or more buddy lists each having one or more buddies are associated with each of the multiple

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identities, wherein the multiple identities are from a single electronic communication service (Fig. 6); and a visual indicator that is configured to display the current logon status of the buddies from the buddy lists of the multiple identities (Column 8, Lines 12-17); and wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a first of the multiple identities is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a second of the multiple identities also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (Column 4, Lines 52-67 and Column 5, Lines 1-13).

Claims 24: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities (Fig. 6).

Claims 25: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all the identities of the user in response to a sign on of one of the identities (Column 12, Lines 34-36).

Claims 26: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all the identities of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the identities (Fig. 14).

Claims 27: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim **23** wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple identities (Fig. 14).

Claims 28: Maehiro discloses the graphical user interface of claim **23** wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user designate preferences for one of the multiple identities, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other identities of the user (Fig. 14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maehiro** (US7058690B2).

Claims 9: Maehiro discloses the method as in claim 1, but does not disclose creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity. However, **Maehiro** does mention "The viewer of Embodiment 1 can

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use four accounts including one master account for logging in and three sub-accounts” (Fig. 14 and Column 10, Lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include this feature in Maehiro. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide different ways to create association between master account and sub-accounts.

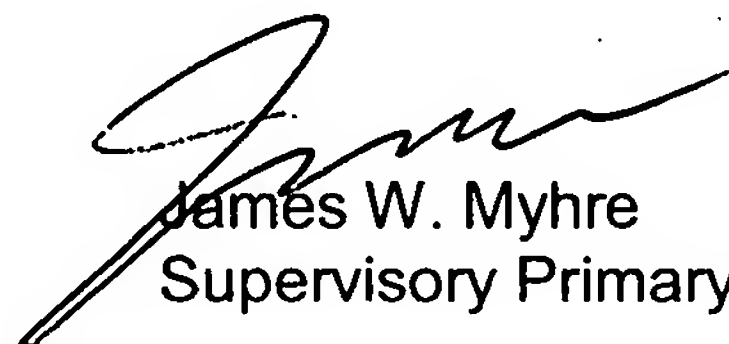
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Kiran K. Shrestha whose telephone number is (571) 270-1691. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James W. Myhre, can be reached on (571) 270-1065. The fax phone number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2100 is (571) 273-3800. Draft or Informal faxes, which will not be entered in the application, may be submitted directly to the examiner at (571) 273-6722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

K-S -
KKS
April 23, 2007


James W. Myhre
Supervisory Primary Examiner